The Humble
REPRESENTATION
AND
COMPLAINT
OF THE
Lower House of Convocation,
Against the Right Reverend
THE
Bishop of *SARUM.*

The Third Edition.

LONDON,
Printed for *George Sawbridge* at the *Three Flower de Luces* in *Little Britain*, and Sold by *J. Nutt*, near *Stationers-Hall*, 1705. Price 2*d.*

The Humble Repreſentation and Complaint of the Lower Houſe of Convocation, againſt the Right Reverend the Biſhop of Sarum.

May it pleaſe your Grace and your Lordſhips,

WE the Clergy of the Lower Houſe of Convocation, have found our ſelves, more than once, under the unwelcome Neceſſity of laying before your Lordſhips our juſt Complaints againſt the Right Reverend Biſhop of *Sarum*. And, as unwilling as we are to multiply ſuch Complaints, yet we are again compelled to it by a very grievous and groundleſs Aſperſion, wherewith the ſaid Right Reverend Biſhop hath lately thought fit to load us, and which we might ſeem in ſome meaſure to have deſerved, ſhould we continue ſilent under it. The Repreſentation of Grievances, which we offered to your Lordſhips laſt Winter, was, we humbly conceive, drawn up in a very inoffenſive and reſpectful manner, and had accordingly a very favourable Reception,

and Anſwer from your Grace: And yet, from the aforeſaid Paper, the ſaid Right Reverend Biſhop hath taken an occaſion, no ways given him, plainly to inſinuate, if not to affirm, that many of the Perſons concerned in preparing it, are Enemies to your Lordſhips, the Queen, and Nation. This reproachful Character his Lordſhip firſt gave of them to the Clergy of his Dioceſs, and hath ſince, even whilſt we were aſſembled in Synod, Publiſhed to the World.

We thank God, we are not conſcious, that this high Accuſation doth in any Branch of it, or in any meaſure belong to us.

We are ſo far from being Enemies to your Lordſhips, that we have always accounted the Enemies, or falſe Friends of Epiſcopacy, to be, for that Reaſon, ours. We have been taught from our very Infancy to reverence your Order, and do reverence even that Biſhop, againſt whom we now complain, for the ſake of it. We have been always firmly and zealouſly devoted to Her Majeſty's Intereſt, even before She aſcended the Throne; and have, ſince that, received from Her ſuch unparallell'd Marks of Her Royal Favour and Bounty, that we ſhould be the moſt Diſloyal of Subjects, and the unworthieſt of Men, ſhould we not make Her all the Returns of Duty and Gratitude

titude that are possible; and to our utmost contribute towards rendring Her Reign (what our constant Prayers to God are, that it may long continue to be) Easy, Prosperous, and Glorious.

As to our being Enemies to the Nation, we know not what that part of the Charge was particularly design'd to insinuate; but sure we are, that as we were born and bred up in it, so we have, and shall ever preserve, true *English* Hearts, and *English* Principles, suitable to our Birth and Education.

We therefore, being in our humble opinion thus openly aspers'd by undistinguishing Reflections cast on many of our Members, and by that means on our House, and the whole Clergy of the Province, do, as becomes us, in the first place, apply our selves to your Grace, and to your Lordships, beseeching you, so effectually to interpose your Authority and Influence, that the said Right Reverend Bishop may be obliged, either openly to disclaim any such intended meaning, or otherwise to make some sufficient and speedy Reparation to your much injur'd Complainants.

Pass'd the Lower House December 15. 1704.

May it please your Grace and your Lordships,

THE Lower Clergy assembled in Convocation this Winter, having long waited for your Lordships directions, and receiving none, did on the Day of *December* last, present a Paper to your Lordships, wherein, amongst other humble Offers and Requests by them made, they earnestly implor'd your Paternal Advice in relation to great difficulties, under which the Clergy did then, and do now Labour. To this Application your Lordships have hitherto vouchsafed them no manner of Reply. They did likewise prepare and pass in their House, on the Day of *December* last, several other Papers; which they hop'd long e'er this to have lay'd before your Lordships, but were prevented by your Lordships forbearing to meet, as an House, in the several intervening Sessions, and acquiescing in the Adjournments then made by the Arch-Bishop's Commissary: The Clergy think it their Right and their Duty to complain, that while they are upon business, they should be thus hindred in the Prolecution of it; such Adjournments they humbly conceive to be altogether

without Precedent, and of dangerous conſequence, Derogatory to Her Majeſty's Authority, by which this Synod is Aſſembled; contrary to the expreſs intent of the Royal Writ, more amply declar'd in your Grace's Mandate of Summons tending to cut off all Intercourſe between the two Houſes, and by that means to fruſtrate the Uſe and ſubvert the Conſtitution of an *Engliſh* Convocation, which the Clergy have done, and will, by God's Bleſſing, do all that is in their power to Retrieve, and Preſerve.

Paſs'd and Delivered February 14. 170⅘.

FINIS.

Advertiſements.

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